



LE CŒUR DU FOOTBALL FEMININ



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A Word From... The « OL ANG'ELLES » Team

Three matches from the second leg of league play were held ahead of the winter break in order to move the schedule forward in advance of the World Cup, which runs from June 7 through July 7. The first half of the season included the first phase of preparations for the World Cup for the national team, with Lyon's stars naturally playing a key role.



Fr-Mexico, Amiens



Fr-Australia, St Etienne



Fr-Cameroon, Grenoble



Fr-Brazil, Nice



J - 210

As we enter the final sprint toward the competition, here's hoping that all the players who have shown they have top-level quality get a chance to contribute to winning the World Cup trophy on home turf.

We encourage all OL ANG'ELLES to join France ANG'ELLES, which has already brought together nearly 150 fans across France—from the Lyon region of course, but also the Côte d'Azur, Paris region, the north, Normandy, and Brittany—to share in this incredible adventure.



Scores... D1

J12 - **OL – EAG : 7 - 0** (OG, Ada x/2, Shanice, Maro x/2, Eugénie) (Attendance: 645)

Just one change from the first leg matchup: U20 international Sana Daoudi signed the day after EAG's first game against Lyon. Daoudi was out of contract after being loaned by PSG to Atletico Madrid.



Plenty of emotion prior to and at the start of the match as we all celebrated the memory of Océane Rogon, gone too soon at the age of 20.



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We imagine that these circumstances kept the Guingamp players from really being able to perform at the high level they've shown since the start of the season.



OL
4 Fr in the starting 11
6 Fr in the 14 appearing in the match
8 Fr in the 16-member squad
EAG
10 Fr / 11
13 Fr / 14
15 Fr / 16



Guingamp suffered all match long, but thanks to a number of good saves from Solène Durand, they kept the ball out of their net during the first half hour.



There were plenty of chances for Lyon, and if it took a while to open the scoring, it's partly because a goal from Amandine was refused for supposed obstruction of Durand by Eugénie in the 8th minute.



Goal from Amandine waved off 8th

Shanice off the post 8th

Eugénie 31st

Ada 35th

It's also because Ada did not convert the penalty awarded for a handball when Debever extended her arm on a shot from Eugénie.



Ironically, it was an own goal that opened the scoring, with Tyryskina's clearing effort hitting Robert, knocking the ball into the net.



OG Robert 39th

ADA seems to have lost her confidence on penalty shots...but she's not one to let up, so she scored a brace from open play. Good to see on the day before she picked up the first women's Ballon d'Or. And it brought her back into a tie with M.A. Katoto for the league lead in goals, with 12 on the season.



Ada 43rd



Ada 48th

There was a brace for MARO as well thanks to good positioning in the box. The first ball was served up for her on a platter by Eugénie, who began the play with a superb nutmeg on Dinglor...



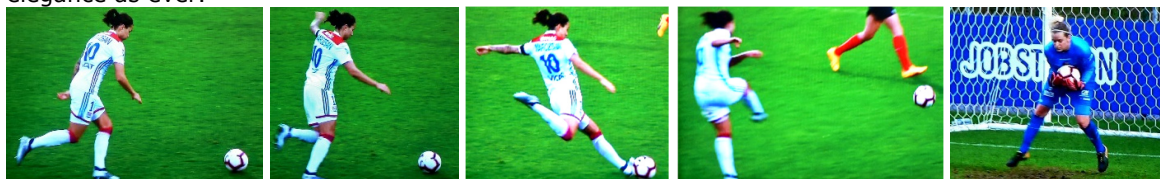
Maro 62nd

...and the second fell kindly to her when Soleène Durand dropped a cross from Delphine.



Maro 74th

And in addition to the goals, Maro also showed off some superb technical moves, with the same elegance as ever.



She also started the play leading to SHANICE's goal when she played Ada in behind.



Shanice 52nd

Lyon kept pushing right up to the whistle, which paid off with a 7th goal scored by EUGENIE in stoppage time.



Eugénie 91st

WENDIE was recognized for her 327th match with OL, passing Camille's record. All of her accomplishments at just 28 years olds are surely as good as any subjective individual award.



J13 - **Soyaux - OL : 0 - 6** (Shanice, Amel, Maro pen., Ada x/2, Eugénie) (Attendance: 1267)



Even with the « Yellow Jackets » attempting to block traffic 90 km from Angoulême, the OL ANG'ELLES arrived on time, a few minutes before kick off, to support the team, as with every match.



OL
4 Fr in the starting 11
6 Fr among the 14 appearing
7 Fr in the 16-member squad
Soyaux
11 Fr / 11
13 Fr / 14
15 Fr / 16



With a number of absences, especially on defense (Wendie, Griedge, Selma, Caro), we had an unusual central defense pairing of Amandine and Saki...



...and their two spots in midfield gave the trio of Izzy, Jess, and Maro an opportunity to circulate the ball quickly and effectively.



Players on both sides traded possession of the ball...

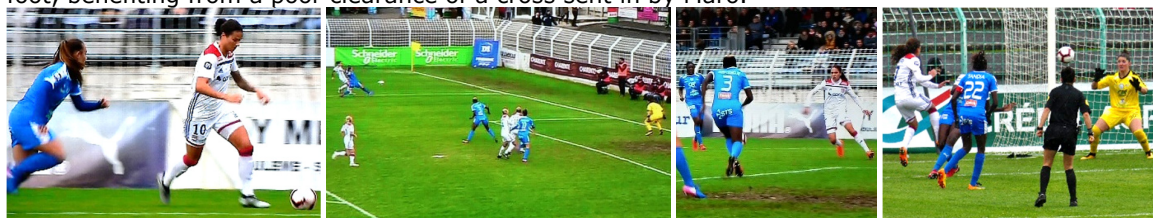


...but finishing quickly made the difference. An early opener from SHANICE confirmed her return to full health and effectiveness.



Shanice 10th

That made the match much easier. The only real scoring chance for Soyaux came in the second half off a shot from Clérac nearly on target. She was put off by Amel. AMEL also scored with her right foot, benefiting from a poor clearance of a cross sent in by Maro.



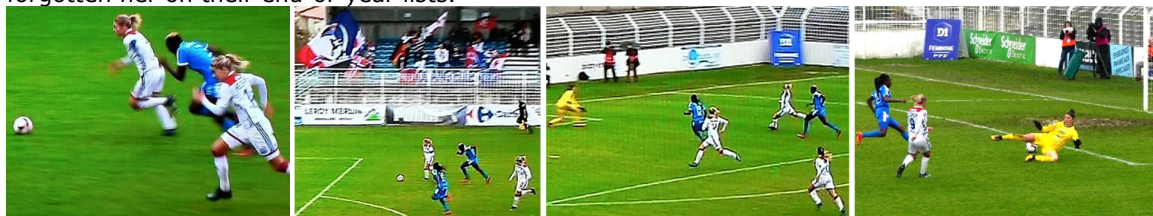
Amel 21st

Amel also prompted a penalty when her cross deflected off the defender's extended arm. MARO took charge of the penalty, and after 1 or 2 recent misses, this shot was powerful enough to score even though Romane Munich got a hand to it.



Maro 30th

It was good to see EUGENIE score as well, sending her best to certain award voters who seem to have forgotten her on their end-of-year lists.

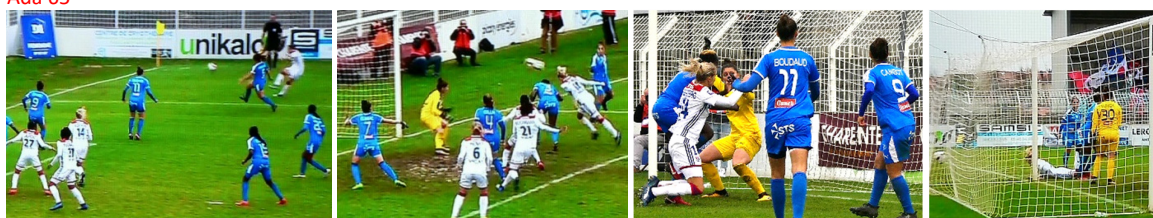


Eugénie 68th

Finally, ADA wrapped up a week of celebration of her Ballon d'Or with another brace, taking sole possession of the league's scoring lead with 14 goals.



Ada 65th



Ada 78th

The score could have been even more lopsided, given the number of additional chances the team had. Lyon had 16 shots, with 9 on target.



Shanice 6th, Shot off the post.

Amandine 67th, Free kick along the post.



Lucy 69th, Header cleared off the line by Clérac.

Emelyne 72nd, Foul in the box not called.



Ada 75th, Shot from Emelyne's cross cleared off the line by Cissoko.



As we celebrated the Fête des Lumières in Lyon, red and blue candles sparkled like ADA, our very own star in the football sky. She was celebrated one more time by Soyaux's directors and the OL ANG'ELLES to wrap up a wonderful week that will live forever in the history of women's football.



J14 - Montpellier HSC – **OL : 0 - 5** (Eugénie, OG Torrent, Wendie pen., Ada, Maro) (Attendance: 364)



MHSC : 4 Fr/11, 5 Fr/14, 7 Fr/16
OL : 7 Fr/11, 8 Fr/14, 8 Fr/16

Thanks to the rainy weather, the first obstacle to overcome was mental because on a very muddy pitch, the players had to be up for a fierce battle.



For a half hour, Montpellier showed signs of staying in the game...but beyond that they couldn't keep up physically. Notably, Sakina Karchaoui couldn't keep up with SHANICE, who turned the match around by leaving Karachoui behind to send in two decisive crosses.



Eugénie 38th

As is often the case when Lyon toy with their prey, the second goal quickly followed the first and put the match away...this time on an own goal from Torrent, under pressure from Amel.



OG Torrent 39th

WENDIE took charge of the penalty this time around, converting after Sakina Karchaoui brought Lucy down in the box.



Wendie 55th

ADA stayed on top of the goals leaderboard alongside Katoto at 15 goals thanks to a diving header off a cross from Amel. It was Amel's 7th assist in D1.



Ada 62nd



MARO delivered an astonishing one-two step around the defender and a wicked shot to run up the score.



Maro 86th

The score could have been much more lopsided, with another ten balls slicing just off-target. Even during the early part of the match, when it was more even and Stina Blackstenius looked to put pressure on the Lyon defense with her strength and good runs, the only real scoring chances still belonged to Lyon. It started as early as the 5th minute when Ada, alone at the penalty spot, failed to connect with Amel's cross due to the muddy terrain.



Ada 5th



Lucy 71st



Eugénie 77th



Maro 78th



Delphine 81st



Amel 82nd



Maro 84th



AMANDINE was everywhere, imposing her strength in midfield and shooting down the right side frequently.



Platini has said that these types of fields benefit technical players: well, Amel, Maro, and Eugénie strung together some great moves in build-up play and the offensive half, while Griedge and Wendie put on their own show on defense...



... with one of the best moves coming in the defensive half as Wendie delivered a superb tackle to take the ball from Blackstenius in the 13th minute.



The players' joy at the final whistle clearly demonstrated how important they knew this game to be in the race towards another league title.



Snapshots... OL Goals

As of the winter break, after 14 D1 matches played:

CLASSEMENT DES BUTEUSES			
1		MARIE-ANTOINETTE KATOTO	15 BUTS
2		ADA HEGBERG	15 BUTS
3		KADIDIATOU DIANI	9 BUTS
4		CLARISS LE BIHAN	9 BUTS
5		LINDA SÄLLSTRÖM	9 BUTS

Goals Leaderboard

and Amel, Eugénie: 8 goals, Maro: 6, Wendie: 5, Amandine: 4, Shanice: 3.

CLASSEMENT DES PASSEUSES			
1		KADIDIATOU DIANI	9 PASSES DÉ
2		SHANICE VAN DE SANDEN	7 PASSES DÉ
3		AMEL MAJRI	7 PASSES DÉ
4		SHUANG WANG	6 PASSES DÉ
5		ADA HEGBERG	6 PASSES DÉ

Assists Leaderboard

and

Izzy: 5 assists, Maro: 4, Selma: 3.

After these 14 D1 games and 4 Champions League games, here's what we've noticed about Lyon's goals:

- Ada seems to be scoring more and more headers;
- Amel is scoring more and more goals with her right foot – perhaps it's not so rare as the commentators would suggest?
- a number of goals have started with a long pass from Wendie, Griedge, or others, exploiting Amel and Eugénie's talent and speed in space to deliver a decisive cross;
- it seems like many goals have been scored in tight, even within 6 meters, off crosses...

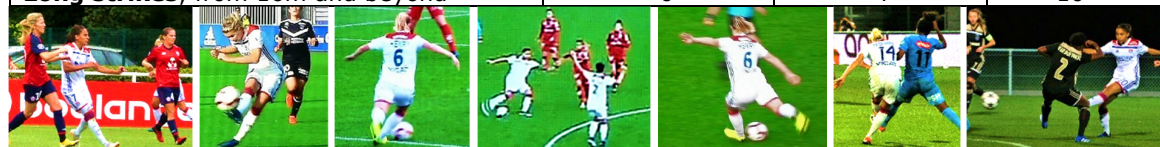
	D1 through J14	UWCL (Rnds 32 & 16)	Total
Goals Scored	60	20	80
ADA tied with Katoto for D1 scoring lead	15	4	19
- Head	6	2	8
- Right Foot	8	1	9
- Left Foot	1	1	2
- Inside the 6	5	2	7
- Outside the box	1	1	2



Ada's Headers:	J1/ Losc-OL	J4/ OL-PFC	J13/ Soyaux-OL	J14/ MHSC-OL
Goals from headers by the team	13	5	18	
- Wendie	3	0	3	
- Amandine	1	1	2	
- Lucy	1	1	2	
Finals passes from Headers	6	1	7	
- Wendie	3	0	3	
AMEL	8	4	12	
- Left foot	4	3	7	
- Right foot	4	1	5	



	J1/ Losc-OL	J2/ OL-Soyaux	J13/ Soyaux-OL	1/16 ^{ème} OL-Avaldsnes
Goals from Set Pieces	14	7	21	
- Corners	5	4	9	
- Free kicks	6	3	9	
- Penalties	3	0	3	
Goals near or inside the 6	36	10	46	
- Inside the 6	25	7	32	
- Just outside the 6	11	3	14	
Play up the middle / Passing exchanges	2	0	2	
Long strikes , from 16m and beyond	6	4	10	



J1/ Amel J7/ Ada J9/Amandine J9/ Maro J9/ Amandine 1/16^{ème}/Ada 1/8^{ème}/ Delphine

In the first half of the season, there were certain matches—or at least certain halves—in which the team struggled to create scoring chances, especially in the critical game against PSG.

We note that many of the team's goals came from crosses or quite close to goal. The quality of the big switches and long kicks from many players at the back—Wendie, Griedge, Saki, Selma, Sarah—is an undeniable plus for the team. But up against stiff defenses, the team has been lacking variety in its attack and maybe some preparation on offense. There have been very few goals from play up the middle, with quick one-two passing exchanges, like we've seen in the past from Ada and Eugénie.

Hopefully, in the second half of the season, the players will take more shots from distance up against defensive blocks, especially given the quality shots that Ada, Amandine, Eugénie, and Maro can deliver.

National Team... Autumn Campaign

With the final sprint racing us toward the World Cup in June, France got to work with 4 warm-up matches in the first half of the season.



France-Mexico: 4-0
Attendance: 8080
6 Lyon starters
Wendie injured



France-Australia: 2-0
Attendance: 10,815
6 Lyon starters
+ Emelyne off the bench (1st cap)



France-Brazil: 3-1
Attendance: 12,073
6 Lyon starters
Eugénie, Emelyne injured

With just a few months until the tournament, the attendance isn't quite where it should be. At St Etienne, the attendance was a long way from the 23,680 fans who watched France-England in 2002, and in Grenoble, the stadium was far from full, even though the rugbywomen filled the stadium for France/New Zealand a few days later. We've haven't quite reached the right level of engagement.

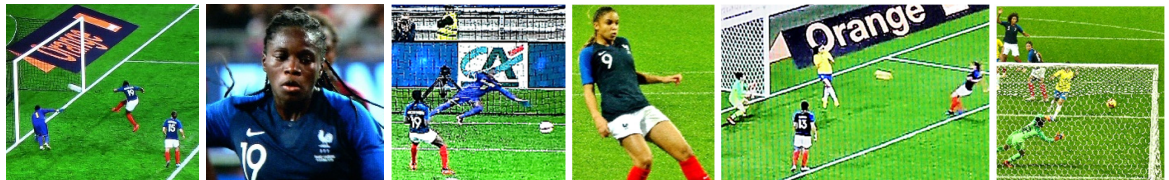
The Lyon players passed around the captain's armband and brought all their experience to a French national team that should rely substantially on OL players, and to a lesser extent PSG—the only 2 clubs where the players regularly experience top level competition.



France is lucky to have the best team in Europe, even the world. All the moreso to have the 2 finalists from the 2017 Champions League.

- 2017 Final: 15 French players participated in the match, 8 from Lyon, 7 from Paris.
5 OL players and 4 PSG players from that final should currently have a real shot at selection.
- 2018 Final: 9 French players participated in the match, including a start for Selma.
8 players from that match should have a legitimate shot at playing for France.

Griedge, Wendie, Delphine and of course Eugénie scored during these 4 games (9 of France's 15 goals).



Fr-Cam: Griedge 36'

Griedge 88'

Fr-Brazil: Delphine 23'

Wendie 75'

EUGENIE :



Fr-Mexico: 54'

88'

Fr-Australia: 55'

90'

Fr-Cam : 47'



With 5 more goals, EUGENIE is now the 2nd all time in goals for France with 73 goals (behind Marinette Pichon 81 goals), in 156 appearances.

FRANCE ANG'ELLES, born from, but independent of OL ANG'ELLES, a group that unites fans from all across France, was present at every match of France's « A Team ». The group has been in attendance since the 2017 EURO, and also supports the youth teams, for example during the U20 World Cup in Brittany last summer.



Amiens, France-Mexico

St Etienne, France-Australia

Grenoble, France-Cameroon

Nice, France-Brazil



A Closer Look... Foreigners on French teams

With the support of the Federation president, Corinne Diacre launched into her new position as national team manager in 2017 by pointing the finger at D1's flagship clubs—OL, PSG, and MHSC—for not giving French players enough playing time and relying instead on foreign players.

In « Le Parisien », the coach has just recently repeated the same accusation : « *there are way too many foreigners in the league* ».

But in reality, at least for OL, this accusation is unfair and off base.

Proportion of French players starting (/11), appearing (/14) and in the squad (/16) for D1 teams during the **2017-18 season**.

D1 Clubs	AVG Fr/XI	MIN Fr/XI	MAX Fr/XI	AVG Fr/Match	AVG Fr/Squad	Foreigners
	/ 11	/ 11	/ 11	/ 14	/ 16	/ Roster
PSG	5.3	3 (1 time)	7 (2 times)	6.7	7.1	14 of 24
MHSC	5.55	4 (4)	8 (1)	7.55	9.4	9 of 25
Albi	6	4 (1)	9 (1)	7.65	9.5	10 of 35
OL	6.35	4 (1)	9 (1)	8.8	10.55	7 of 24
Losc	7.85	7 (9)	9 (5)	10.25	12.35	4 of 26
Rodez	8.35	7 (2)	9 (9)	10.45	12.55	4 of 30
Soyaux	8.4	7 (4)	10 (3)	10.9	12.6	4 of 24 (r)
OM	8.65	7 (2)	10 (3)	10.95	12.7	4 of 28
Bordeaux	8.7	8 (8)	10 (2)	11.55	13.6	4 of 30
Guingamp	9.1	9 (20)	10 (2)	11.95	14	3 of 27
Fleury 91	9.8	9 (12)	11 (3)	12.75	14.8	1 of 30
PFC	10.9	10 (2)	11 (20)	13.35	15.4	2 of 22

There have not been as many foreigners as certain folks suggest on OL's roster since the 2017-18 season began, especially if you compare OL's roster to its biggest competitors for the title, PSG and Montpellier.

PFC (formerly Juivsy) relied almost exclusively on French players, sure. But how many really have the quality to compete in the near term for a spot on a French national team that aims to win the World Cup? Hardly any.

When she arrived, the coach awarded national team spots like gold stars to school children...but a year later, what does she have to show for the trials she gave to Benameur, Gréboval, E.Cascarino, Jaurena, Catala, Mattéo...or Butel, Bilbault and even Thiney, a very good D1 player who disappears when the pace and the level pick up.

In 2017-18, l'OL provided the French national team with more than 10 international quality players, with experience in top-level matches. Even the ones who aren't always starters are accustomed to

training and competing with the best players in the world at practices with a much higher level than many D1 games.

Players developed at OL...



...players who came to OL young and took their game to the next level in Lyon...

...without overlooking Camille's last season, or Corine as an option in light of the lack of depth at right back, or players out on loan, or even Jessica or Kheira.



At every position, a Lyon player could be selected and even start, given the lack of competition from players on other teams.

Sure, nationality could be a consideration for playing time, but what's that worth in comparison to delivering results, rewarding strong performances, and showing off French women's football?

Gérard PRÊCHEUR (June 2017) :

« The French national team should ride the wave from the successful evolution of results and performances from [D1] clubs. There's an opportunity for French women's football to have 2 clubs in the Champions League final...that's a great honor and a great performance from French women's football...plus when you look at the titles Olympique Lyonnais has earned over these past few seasons, with 2 European titles...as far as the clubs go, everything is functioning perfectly well... ».

Proportion of **domestic players** on the two **finalists of the UWCL 2017-18**.

Kiev Final	Dom/11 Starters	Dom/Appearing	Dom/ Squad	Attendance
OL	7 / 11	9 / 14	12 / 18	
Wolfsburg	4 / 11	6 / 14	9 / 18	14,237

On the UWCL 2017-18 quarterfinalists.

WCL 2017-18	Dom/11 Starters	Dom/Appearing	Dom/ Squad	Foreigners/Roster
Wolfsburg	4.3	5.7 / 14	8.9 / 18	12 / 28
Montpellier	4.8	6.8 / 14	10.8 / 18	9 / 25
Chelsea	5	7.4 / 14	10.5 / 18	8 / 23
Linköping	6.5	8 / 14	12 / 18	6/26 (2017),10/31 (2018)
OL	6.9	8.9 / 13.4	12.1 / 18	7 / 24
Barcelona	7.2	9.3 / 14	13 / 18	8 / 27
Manchester City	9	9.6 / 13.5	11.6 / 17.3	10 / 27
Slavia Prague	9.8	12 / 13.2	16.5 / 18	2 / 22

In the American **NWSL**,

Domestic players on the 4 **playoff semifinalists**.

Portland:	7 US/11,	8 US/14,	12 US/18
Orlando:	7 US/11,	10 US/14,	14 US/18
North Carolina:	8 US/11,	10 US/13,	13 US/18
Chicago:	11 US/11,	13 US/14,	17 US/18

Even if there have been certain seasons with fewer foreigners playing for OL, we certainly don't see a huge change from prior seasons, and the number of players developed by OL remains significant.



Even the players who don't see as much playing time compete every day at the highest level in the world, which is not the case on teams made up of only French players.

What about in the first half of this year's D1 season?

Proportions of French players on D1 teams during the **first leg of the 2018-19 season**.

D1 Clubs	AVG Fr/XI	MIN Fr/XI	MAX Fr/XI	AVG Fr/Match	AVG Fr/Squad	Foreigners
	/ 11	/ 11	/ 11	/ 14	/ 16	/ Roster
MHSC	4.6	2 (1 time)	6 (1 time)	5.4	6.9	10 / 22
PSG	5.6	4 (1)	6 (7)	6.7	7.6	15 / 26
OL	5.9	4 (1)	7 (3)	7.6	8.6	10 / 24
Bordeaux	8.2	7 (1)	10 (2)	10.3	12.1	5 / 22
Guingamp	8.9	8 (5)	11 (2)	11.3	13.1	4 / 24
Metz	8.9	8 (2)	10 (1)	10.8	12.6	6 / 28
Fleury 91	9.1	8 (2)	10 (3)	11.5	13.3	3 / 23
Losc	9.2	9 (9)	10 (2)	11.6	13.3	6 / 26
PFC	9.5	9 (6)	10 (5)	11.5	13.4	4 / 24
Dijon	10.2	9 (2)	11 (4)	12.5	14.4	2 / 23
Rodez	10.3	10 (8)	11 (3)	12.6	14.9	1 / 29
Soyaux	10.3	10 (8)	11 (3)	12.9	14.9	2 / 24

Compared to last season, there are a few more foreigners on OL's roster (as is the case on most clubs, including PFC, who have previously criticized other clubs for this in the past), but the number of French players appearing in games remains similar, and there are more players developed by the club on the roster.










OL Season	AVG Fr XI D1/11	MIN Fr XI D1/11	MAX Fr XI D1/11	AVG Fr/Match D1/14	AVG Fr XI UCL/11	AVG Fr/Match UCL/14	AVG Fr/Squad UCL/18	Foreigners / Roster	Players OL Developed
2004-05	9.7	6	11	12				7 of 37	12 of 37
2005-06	9.4	8	11	12.1				5 of 29	6 of 29
2006-07	9.8	8	11	12.4				3 of 25	12 of 25
2007-08	8.7	6	11	11.2	7.8	10		5 of 26	9 of 26
2008-09	6.7	4	8	8.8	6.4	8.3		9 of 30	11 of 30
2009-10	6.5	4	8	8.2	5.8	6.9		9 of 26	7 of 26
2010-11	8.7	8	10	11.3	8.4	10.7	14.3	5 of 24	5 of 24
2011-12	8.7	8	10	10.7	8.7	10.7	13.6	5 of 23	4 of 23
2012-13	9.4	8	11	11.5	9.4	11.3	14.4	5 of 24	4 of 24
2013-14	8.5	7	10	11	8	10	14	4 of 20	4 of 20
2014-15	7.3	7	8	10	7	9	14	4 of 25	9 of 25
2015-16	7.6	7	10	10.5	7.9	10.2	14	6 of 29	11 of 29
2016-17	6.6	5	8	8.6	6.6	8.1	11.3	8 of 26	7 of 26
2017-18	6.35	4	9	8.8	6.5	9.3	12.5	7 of 26/24	8 of 26

Certainly the level of D1 is improving, with the arrival of a number of young players developed by the clubs, but contrary to what we hear all too often, there are no overlooked prodigies who would shine but for a lack of playing time caused by the presence of too many foreigners.

The pool of top-level French players is still too shallow, and teams need to pull in foreign players to round out and develop their rosters.

Gérard PRÊCHEUR (June 2017) : « *If the professional clubs want to dedicate 1, 2, or 3% [of their resources] to their women's teams, instantly the women's teams would be able to have a better staff and better players. But [as it is now] there aren't enough good players to supply every team that has the ambition to earn good results* ».

OL has in its ranks this year 9 players who should compete for selection, with most of them having a good claim to a starting job.

								
Wendie	Amel	Griedge	Eugénie	Sarah	Amandine	Selma	Delphine	Emelyne
15 games 1350 min	16 g 1262'	14 g 1260'	15 g 1204'	13 g 1170'	14 g 1103'	13 g 950'	14 g 640'	13 g 370'

(after 14 D1 games / 1260 min of play, 4 UWCL games / 360', for a total of 18 games / 1620')

When looking at these stats, it's important to remember a few facts the coach seems to have overlooked in commenting on the lack of playing time for certain players:

Selma : like Emelyne, missed a few league matches while competing with the U20s.

Valérie Gauvin : 4 starts in 7 matches out of 14 in D1 (361 minutes, less than Emelyne), 2 goals, has not appeared in any of the last 5 D1 matches since the last call up list.

Elise : Called up after having played 27 minutes with 1 single substitute appearance in Liga and WCL with Barca.

Clarisse Le Bihan : Even on the club that has given the least playing time to French players this season, she has played in all 14 D1 games, with 13 starts (1079 minutes), 9 goals.

The coach ignores her even when she's maybe the only MHSC player who should potentially start for the national team.

In the end, the presence of foreign players on the roster has not stopped OL from providing the French national team with plenty of players who routinely compete at the international level—even more than the coach seems willing to select, as if there were a quota of Lyon players she can't exceed, or as if OL, and to a lesser extent PSG, should apologize for wanting to remain on top of Europe and the world.

Gérard PRÊCHEUR (June 2017) :

« An influx of foreign stars?...Of course that's a good thing. Of course, just as with the men, whether in France or England. The more that we have good players in the league, the better the league will get and the more the French players will also progress ».

It would be better to push and to help the other clubs become more professional and get better. Then, in the future, players from teams other than D1's flagship clubs could legitimately compete for call ups to the national team. But it seems that certain folks prefer to see the best clubs in France regress so that others can keep up. So who exactly is in the wrong?